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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: VAN WIE  
Serial No.: 10/690,950  
Filed: OCTOBER 21, 2003  
Confirmation No.: UNKNOWN  
Due Date: JANUARY 21, 2004 (IDS)  
Title: VALVE AND TANK ENCLOSURE ASSEMBLY

Examiner: UNKNOWN  
Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN  
Docket: 11919.11USD3

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 22, 2003.

By:

Name:

*Kristine A. Welch*  
*Kristine A. Welch*

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Supplemental Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement and Form 1449
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
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By:

Name: Karen A. Fitzsimmons

Reg. No.: 50,470

KFitzsimmons:PLSkaw

*Karen A. Fitzsimmons*



S/N 10/690,950

PATENT

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By:

*Kristine A. Wach*

Name:

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.